

## Bond Michelle D

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**From:** Lemons Terry L  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 24, 2018 5:36 PM  
**To:** Ryan, Stephen; Vickie Hull; Corbin Kenneth C  
**Cc:** Evans Liz E; Ransom, David; Tim Hugo (Tim.Hugo@capnet.org)  
**Subject:** RE: Free File slides for tomorrow.

Confirming receipt. We'll see you tomorrow. Thanks.

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**From:** Ryan, Stephen [mailto:SRyan@mwe.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 24, 2018 4:44 PM  
**To:** Vickie Hull ; Corbin Kenneth C  
**Cc:** Lemons Terry L ; Evans Liz E ; Ransom, David ; Tim Hugo (Tim.Hugo@capnet.org)  
**Subject:** Free File slides for tomorrow.

**Stephen M. Ryan**  
Partner

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**From:** Ryan, Stephen  
**Sent:** Tuesday, July 24, 2018 3:21 PM  
**To:** 'Vickie Hull'; [Kenneth.C.Corbin@irs.gov](mailto:Kenneth.C.Corbin@irs.gov)  
**Cc:** Lemons Terry L; [Liz.E.Evans@irs.gov](mailto:Liz.E.Evans@irs.gov); Ransom, David; Tim Hugo ([Tim.Hugo@capnet.org](mailto:Tim.Hugo@capnet.org))  
**Subject:** Update on tomorrow.

I will be co-presenting with Mr. Hugo tomorrow for the Free File Alliance. I will be providing you a slide deck before nightfall that is critical to our joint presentation. I am planning on bringing 30 copies of the presentation and other handouts to the meeting.

We were dismayed to find out yesterday that Mr. Ventry is being permitted to attend our briefing tomorrow. That hardly seems like an effective recusal.

Since Mr. Ventry is actively lobbying the Congress not to include the House bill's position on the Free File program, FFI continues to object to his attendance tomorrow at our presentation. We respectfully believe Mr. Ventry should not be provided directly or indirectly a copy of our presentation, but we can speculate that he will be making notes throughout if he attends.

I have never seen a FACA Committee whose committee chair has published three op eds with his conclusions against a matter committed to the FACA committee's review; and where the Chair is actively lobbying the Congress against an agency program he is supposed to be evaluating in his FACA role.

Sincerely,  
Stephen Ryan

**Stephen M. Ryan**

Partner

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**From:** Vickie Hull [<mailto:vickie.hull@timhugo.com>]

**Sent:** Saturday, July 21, 2018 9:29 AM

**To:** [Kenneth.C.Corbin@irs.gov](mailto:Kenneth.C.Corbin@irs.gov)

**Cc:** Lemons Terry L; [Liz.E.Evans@irs.gov](mailto:Liz.E.Evans@irs.gov); Ryan, Stephen; Ransom, David; Vickie Hull

**Subject:** Fwd: FW: Free File Follow Up. approve please and send or more likely we send.

Ken,

Thank you for your update concerning the role of Mr. Ventry in this matter. We are disappointed that Mr. Ventry has not chosen to, or not been asked to resign, which would seem more appropriate given his three articles. The second article in particular demonstrates the real goal of Mr. Ventry and his colleagues is to create an IRS Ready Return program, and demonstrates that the proponents of Ready Return seek to discredit the value of the Free File program in order to create a 'need' for Ready Return. The article also seeks to inflame partisan politics in Congress against IRS. Mr. Ventry has also been seeking Congressional staff and Member visits on this trip. It is black letter law that it is illegal for U.S. government funds to be used to lobby. I believe IRS may have a duty to prohibit reimbursement of Mr. Ventry's travel expenses if his trip includes any such lobbying visits.

I am pleased to accept IRS's invitation to attend and present on Wednesday. I will need AV equipment to project slides for the presentation.

Also, an incorrect email was used for me ([hugo@capnet.org](mailto:hugo@capnet.org)). Please use this email for further communication.

Regards,

Tim

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**From:** Corbin Kenneth C [mailto:[Kenneth.C.Corbin@irs.gov](mailto:Kenneth.C.Corbin@irs.gov)]  
**Sent:** Friday, July 20, 2018 10:58 AM  
**To:** Ryan, Stephen; [Hugo@capnet.org](mailto:Hugo@capnet.org)  
**Cc:** Lemons Terry L; Evans Liz E  
**Subject:** Free File Follow Up

Good morning Tim and Steve,

As you are aware, there have been some opinion articles published recently by the IRSAC chair, Dennis Ventry. These opinion pieces about the Free File program reflected what we believe is Mr. Ventry's opinion and not that of the IRSAC, which is preparing recommendations to IRS on ways to improve the Free File program in the future.

The IRSAC has a regularly scheduled working group session in Washington D.C. next week. While the IRSAC has had the opportunity to engage with the IRS about the Free File program in prior working sessions, we believe it would be beneficial for them to hear from you. We would like to invite you to attend the session on Wednesday, July 25 at 11:15 for one hour at our 1111 office, in the Commissioner's Conference room #3313. This is a chance for you to provide industry information about Free File that the working group can consider as it contemplates program improvement opportunities.

Also, the Commissioner has met directly with Mr. Ventry. The Commissioner explained the importance and role of the IRSAC chair position and the importance it plays in providing advice to the IRS, helping ensure the group has a shared and cohesive recommendation from all the participants. It was agreed to update The Hill article to remove the reference to the IRSAC (Mr. Ventry had taken this step prior to the meeting with the Commissioner) and not include that reference in any future articles (Mr. Ventry also took this step). Finally, the IRSAC Co-Chair – not Mr. Ventry -- will lead the future discussions and recommendations for topics related to Free-File. Mr. Ventry will recuse himself from participating or contributing to the topic of Free File.

Please let me know if you will be able to attend. Your contact for the meeting on the 25th will be John Lipold. He can be reached that day via his cell (b) (6).

Internal Revenue Service | Office Number (470) 639-3500 | Fax Number 855-863-8342

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